MOBILITY

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BRENDAN BYRNE, Governor | MARCH 1980 | LOUIS J. GAMBACCINI, Commissioner

$267 million asked for transportation

Transportation Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini will testify this month before the Joint Legislative Appropriations Committee on the fiscal 1980-1981 proposed State Budget of $267 million for DOT and NJ TRANSIT.

The recommendation is part of Governor Brendan Byrne's proposed $5.1 billion State Budget, which represents a 5.5% increase over the current year. The DOT and NJ TRANSIT Budget represents a 2% increase over the current year.

The Governor said that an additional $210 million in new tax revenue will be needed to balance the Budget. The Legislature will review the Budget through the spring and it must be balanced through new taxes or spending cuts by June 30.

Commissioner Gambaccini will make a presentation to the Legislative Committee on the impact of the Budget on DOT and NJ TRANSIT's ability to provide transportation service through 1980-1981.

The following are major highlights of the DOT and NJ TRANSIT Budget Recommendations:

- An $18 million gap in funding for bus and rail subsidies will require a fare increase. The NJ

Continued on Page 2

William Feldman

Advocate named

William Feldman of Ewing Township has been named to the newly created position of bicycle/pedestrian advocate.

"With energy conservation a major concern in New Jersey, the bicycle is no longer just a recreational vehicle, but a mode of transportation," stated Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini in announcing Feldman's appointment. "The Department also is concerned with the safety and needs of pedestrians on our right-of-way."

Feldman, an active jogger and bicyclist, is a graduate of Penn State University and has a masters degree in geography from Rutgers University. He is currently writing his doc-

Continued on Page 3

Solutions tested at Metropark

A variety of transportation services are being applied to solve traffic and parking congestion in the area of Metropark Station (Iselin).

Representatives of DOT, NJ TRANSIT, local officials and the nearby business and industrial communities who serve on the Metropark Task Force recently initiated carpool incentives, new "feeder" bus routes, a long-awaited traffic light, added parking spaces at the station and plans to accommodate those who can bicycle to the station.

Commuters and Metropark Industry employees account for 6,700 person trips each way into the area. Staggered work hours and increased carpooling—the Department offers a free computerized "matching" service—are among the series of strategies planned to lessen the area's present congestion problems. Commuters may continue to call the DOT office of Ride Sharing for questionnaires and free matching at 609-292-4934.

The new bus routes, the first ever to service the area were launched by NJ TRANSIT on February 25. They

Continued on Page 2

Meadowlands get transit study

Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini announced a study to analyze transportation needs and measure transportation impacts of future development in the Hackensack Meadowlands.

DOT and NJ TRANSIT staff and representatives of the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission will work with a consultant, Alan M. Voorhees & Associates of McLean, Virginia, to develop a Transportation Impact Management System to measure individual development proposals to insure their consistency with the policies and programs of the agencies responsible for Meadowland development.

"The Meadowlands Commission shares our concern that orderly development must include planning for adequate, energy-efficient transportation services both road and transit —if, in fact, development is to be successful," said Gambaccini. "We have an opportunity in the Meadowlands to demonstrate to the rest of the country sound transportation-land use planning in the context of the realities of the 1980's—energy crisis, economic, social and environ-

Continued on Page 2

Solutions tested

From Page 1

pass the Edison and Woodbridge Township homes of nearly 1,000 rail commuters and area employees. Two Plainfield Transit buses, which will stop when flagged, travel each route at 15 minute intervals during weekday commuter rush hours: 6-9 a.m. and 3-8 p.m. The Edison route also provides weekday non-rush hour service at half hour intervals. Shopping, industrial office centers on the commuter routes also will be served. Commuters holding monthly train tickets ride free; others pay 45 cents.

Extensive efforts also are in progress to inform commuters of alternative bus and rail services. For example, Metuchen Station, just one mile from Metropark, has available parking space. An additional rush hour train has been added.

Parking spaces have been increased at Metropark along with strict enforcement of parking prohibition in three emergency vehicle lanes. Bicycle racks and lockers will be installed soon to encourage commuter bike trips to and from the station.

The construction of a ramp to the northbound lanes of the nearby Garden State Parkway eliminating the need to enter the congested area, is a long range project currently under Department study.

Metropark is one of the most heavily used stations in New Jersey, with a total of 85 Amtrak and Conrail trains stopping there every weekday. The parking lot currently has 1,500 spaces.

Meadowlands study

From Page 1

mental concerns, and shrinking public funds."

Gambaccini emphasized that the study will require input from local officials and business and industry as well as the public agencies involved. The project should take a year with an interim report ready in six months.

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First NJ TRANSIT directors

The Board of Directors of the New Jersey Transit Corporation were photographed at their first meeting held in December in the Robert Treat Hotel, Newark. They are William M. Rodgers, John C. McGoldrick, Martin Brody, DOT Commissioner and Board chairman Louis J. Gambaccini, and Betty Wilson, Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Protection. Missing from the photograph are Richard B. Standiford, representing State Treasurer Clifford Goldman, and board member Verdell L. Roundtree.

Rail renovations are underway

Rehabilitation projects on the Morristown and Raritan Valley lines and the completion of maintenance projects on the Freehold Branch freight lines are among the first rail renovations underway in 1980.

The first construction contract on the Morristown Line re-electrification project was awarded in January. It provides for construction of a $1.2 million signal power control house and temporary traction power supply substation in the Kearny/Harrison Meadows.

The signal power system will be changed from 23kV/60Hz to 23kV/100Hz. This will prevent interference from the traction power substation which could cause a signal malfunction.

The traction power substation will supply a three-mile test track which will be used to train Conrail crews on new equipment purchased for the line.

The grant from the Federal Railroad Administration will permit the Department to begin rehabilitation of the Raritan Valley commuter line in April.

The three year project will involve replacement and repair of 3.7 miles of track at a cost of nearly $1 million.

The accelerated maintenance project on two Freehold Branch freight lines in Monmouth County have been completed. Grants totaling $336,572 from the Federal Railroad Administration were used to make much needed repairs. The improvements permit faster service to the shippers along these lines and has prompted Howell Township to actively seek new industries for this line.

For transportation

From Page 1

TRANSIT Board will be considering the fare issue, and a public hearing must be conducted.

- The Budget includes $5 million from Casino Tax Revenues to provide free off-peak transit service to the elderly and handicapped beginning July 1. The current program provides for half-fare during off-peak hours.
- DOT Capital Construction is budgeted at $3 million, a decrease of $13.3 million from the current year. This will reduce funds available to carry out the DOT four-year capital plan. The four-year $2.1 billion plan was predicated on federal matching funds, state funds from the 1979 Transportation Bond Issue and state funds from the regular annual budget process, the category that has been sharply reduced in the Recommended Budget.

Interstate Route 195 work draws praise

Work to lessen the impact of the construction of the next 4.2 miles of Interstate Route 195 on six cultural resources drew plaudits from highlaymen and historians alike in an impressive display of interagency cooperation and efficiency which was engineered by DOT's Bureau of Environmental Analysis.

A preliminary report of the cultural resources in the old village of Squankum and land along the Manasquan River in Howell and Wall Townships, was prepared by DOT engineers and archeologists. The report's "quality and comprehensiveness" drew a commendation from the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation which plans to use it as a model for other agencies.

As a result, the usual two year review process was cut to an unprecedented month and a half and the actual survey and salvage was completed in five months by a 20-member team from the Rutgers Archeological Survey Office. Because the highway design engineers were involved early in this process, three ramps could be redesigned to lessen their impact on the site within the time schedule.

An infra red transit beam located dig sites in wooded areas while a subsurface radar unit, developed for the U.S. lunar landing, "bleeped out" highly accurate information about underground non-metallic artificats and soil changes.

The I-195 project represents the first intensive scientifically controlled excavation on New Jersey's coastal plain. Coupled with earlier findings along the Manasquan River, its unearthing of a lone Paleo-Indian spear point in an undisturbed state has triggered a re-evaluation of the previously accepted opinion that this earliest group of Native Americans in the Northeast, who lived about 10,000 years ago, did not extensively inhabit the coastal areas of New Jersey.

Future study of these sites is expected to reveal data on the changing course of the Manasquan River and shifting geological reformations, an "environmental time capsule" providing a more accurate basis upon which proposed manmade changes to the environment can be predicted.

The I-195 archeological survey work, completed in January, recovered over 30,000 artifacts. Squankum Mill, the site of Jackson Forge and four prehistoric Indian sites are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Sites and will become part of Allaire State Park's historical preservation project.

The survey and salvaging work, jointly sponsored by DOT and the Federal Highway Administration, was undertaken to conform to a federal mandate.

New advocate

From Page 1

toral dissertation in geography and is a member of the Association of American Geographers.

Feldman has worked as a principal environmental specialist for the past five years in the Department's Bureau of Environmental Analysis.

In his new position, Feldman will prepare and coordinate programs involving bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safety education and mapping of routes. He will maintain contact with groups and individuals who are involved with bicycle and pedestrian traffic including other units of the Department.

Feldman may be reached at 609-292-0829.

NJDOT FACTS FILE

MAINTENANCE INVENTORY

ROADS		**BRIDGES**	
Highway Lane Miles	10,196.2	Fixed Structures	2,972
Institutional Road miles	615.6	Draw Bridges	37
Shoulders (miles)	4,776.3	Sign Bridges	740
Curbs (miles)	3,463.9	Canal and Feeder	50
Cable Guide Rail (feet)	1,003,279	Railroad	62
Steel Guide Rail (feet)	3,989,353		
Chain-Link Fence (feet)	1,919,534		
HIGHWAY SIGNS		**LANDSCAPE**	
Signs (units)	112,258	Grass Areas (Acres)	10,649.8
Delineators/reflectors (units)	52,484	Schrub Beds (Sq. yards)	766,135
Mile Markers (units)	3,053	Trees (units)	184,554
Posts (units)		Living Snow Fence (feet)	193,632

Source: Bureau of Maintenance

February 1980

Safe landing

Exxon

Before British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher could land on the grounds of Exxon's Research and Engineering Company in Linden, DOT's Division of Aeronautics inspected the site to insure that the company's heliport could safely handle the large Marine Corps Helicopter.

Bill is considered

At press time, the State Legislature was considering a bill to appropriate a total of $265 million out of the $475 million 1979 Transportation Bond Issue for state highways, state aid to local roads and public transportation capital projects.

The funds would be used for projects over an 18 month period. The bill would authorize $135 million for state highway projects, $40 million for state aid to local projects and $90 million for public transportation projects.

Commissioner Gambaccini has said that the Department is firmly committed to moving projects as quickly as possible as bond funds become available.

Garden club landscapes circle

The recent re-landscaping of the Medford Circle at the intersection of Routes 70 and 541 is a good example of civic cooperation. The beautification project was conceived by the Garden Club of Medford and designed by the Department of Transportation's landscape architects.

The planting project is the club's contribution to the national Blue Star Memorial Byways. The byways are part of a network of highways dedicated to the memory of those who served in our Armed Forces.

Roads and bridges improved in 1979

Highway and bridge improvements totalling $130 million were completed by the Department during 1979. The figure includes federal, state and some county funds.

Over $75 million was allocated for resurfacing, widening and safety improvements on the interstate and state highway systems, bridges and intersections.

The new $30 million section of Route I-195 opened in August and extended the highway nine miles from Route 527 in Ocean County to Route 9 in Monmouth County. The route now extends from Trenton to Howell Township.

A $9.1 million, five-mile section of Route 18 Freeway in Colts Neck and Tinton Falls opened in December. Motorists may now travel between New Brunswick and the Garden State Parkway in Tinton Falls.

A series of four bridges on Route 52 that connects Somers Point to Ocean City in Atlantic and Cape May Counties, were rehabilitated at a cost of $3.5 million.

New bikeways in Burlington, Atlantic, Middlesex, Camden and Burlington Counties were completed.

A paved and lighted railroad parking facility at the Waldwick Station in Bergen County opened in June, accommodating 154 cars.

Some of the totals for highway and construction improvements are: resurfacing $45.5 million; widening and safety improvements $23.7 million; bridge construction and renovations $6.1 million; intersection improvements $2.5 million; railroad crossing improvements $570,000; Waldwick Station parking $400,000; bikeways $392,000 and landscaping $141,000.

Commissioner honored

Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini and Marlboro Township attorney Arthur Goldzweig have been named recipients of the first annual Walter Kozloski Commuter Service Award.

The award has been established as a tribute to the deceased assemblyman whose concern and assistance led to the formation of the Central New Jersey Transportation Board, the largest bus commuter organization in New Jersey.

Aviation advisors meet: a first

Aviation is the fastest-growing segment of transportation in New Jersey. A cross-section of the industry met as members of NJDOT's first Aviation Advisory Committee on January 23 in the Department's Trenton headquarters.

Walter Kies, Director of Aeronautical Programs, headed a lively discussion of the broad range of agenda items. A follow-up session is planned for the fall.

Photographed at the first meeting were (seated) Peggy Naumann, Liberty Aviation, Inc., Caldwell Wright Airport; Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini; Donald C. Young, Southern Jersey and Atlantic City Airways; (standing) Lewis B. Finch, Millville Municipal Airport; Jack Shelley, Aviation Development Council; Thomas W. Coyle, Red Lion Airport, Vincentown; Walter Kies; Philip Heathcote, the Department of Labor and Industry; Peter Sweeney, RCA Corporation Aviation, Mercer County Airport; and Gerald Hoffman, EDO-AIRE, Fairfield.

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TRANSACTION 1980

TRANSACTION 1980, New Jersey's Fourth Annual Transportation Conference, will be sponsored by the Department, NJ TRANSIT, the County Transportation Association and the National Council for the Transportation Disadvantaged on April 18 and 29 at the Trenton Motor Lodge, West State Street, Trenton. Conference topics will focus on the impact of the state transportation network on contemporary issues such as energy conservation and economic growth, urban goods and their movement, mobility for the elderly and handicapped and ridesharing. For more information about the conference, contact Nina Kerzner at 609-292-9081 or write: TRANSACTION 1980, Room 156, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton 08625.